

SECURITY ENDORSEMENTS OF SWEDEN

By Mike J. Burrows

In 1872 the contract-for printing all Swedish stamps was in the hands of the manager of a printing concern responsible for the bank-note production of the National Bank, Pehr Olof Bagge. His death saw the contract transferred to Jacob Bagge in February 1873.

It would seem that Jacob was a very unhappy fellow and, by the end of 1885, he had so attacked the postal officials over the quality of the paper that was being sanctioned for postage stamps, that the Government of the day was asked to let Bagge have the chance to use products other than the hand-made paper produced by the National Bank's mill at Tumba. This request was granted, but in order to have a security check, it was necessary to have some form of stock control. This control took the form of printing blue posthorns on the posthorns on the back of sheets in positions to give 200 impressions that fell one on each stamp (when printed) in the lower third of the design.

Although the public were able to buy the stamps in sheets of 100, they were printed in sheets of 200 which were divided. Two plates of 100 posthorn devices were made. These plates marked 1 & 2 were probably put side by side indiscriminately when being used. In the margins 8 larger posthorns appear. A furhter control was the addition of a number and letter on the left hand upper margin put on by a numbering machine.

The first delivery of machine made paper was made on 13th February 1886. It is believed that most of the machine made paper came from Gebruder Hoesch, Maschinenpapier Fa.brik, Kreuzau bei Duren.

It will be seen that machine made paper was security endorsed by printing the blue posthorns on the back by the Post Office. The stamp design being printed by Bagge. Whether any of this so called "posthorn series" are known with commercial perfins, I do not know. Perhaps some of our members have examples of this government security endorsement with privately made perfins? Also does anyone have the date of introduction of perfins in Sweden?

Posthorn Series

S.G.	Scott.	Value	Colour	Date of issue
34	45	10 ore	pale rose	24. 2.86
35	46	20 ore	vermilion	19. 3.86
36	47	30 ore	deep brown	22. 3.86
31	42	4 ore	grey	12. 4.86
32	43	5 ore	blue-green	24. 5.86
37	48	50 ore	carmine	25. 5.86
38	49	1 Krone	deep blue 7 bistre	2.10.86
30	41	3 ore	yellow brown	9. 4.87
33	44	6 ore	lilac	7. 8.88
29	40	2 ore	orange	2. 7.91